

SENATOR HEFNER: I don't know if this bill does what you think it is going to do or not. Do you have your Final Reading book in front of you?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I do.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, on page 2, beginning with line 12, it says, nothing in this section, refers to Section 1 which is the bill, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an increase in property taxes levied if such an increase is due to a budget increase by a political subdivision.

SENATOR VICKERS: Right. That is the sentence I referred to earlier that would have prohibited any new growth under the amendment that I offered in this earlier, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: But it says shall be construed to prohibit an increase in property taxes levied if such an increase is due to a budget increase. So if the political subdivisions has a budget increase they would be allowed to increase taxes, as I understand it.

SENATOR VICKERS: Not if they are up against their statutory limit, as I indicated earlier. With the other amendment that I offered, this still wouldn't have allowed, that language that you are reading wouldn't have allowed the tech schools, or the NRDs, or ESUs, or anybody else that is up against their statutory limit to increase that budget for new growth. They could have only kept their budget neutral and raise the budget because of lowering valuations. But they couldn't raise the budget.

SE TOR HEFNER: Okay, I have a little bit different interpretation of that. I just wanted to call it to your attention. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, would you like to close please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, without adopting the amendment that I offered earlier it seems to me that we are being very unfair in applying it to only one direction. But I guess what this body decided was that we want to have a statutory limit instead, and then have to introduce legislation in order to allow a continuation of services